

February 9, 1955

OSD Declassification/Release Instructions on File

Dear Pete:

I have just come back from over three weeks of rest and sun way down south overseas, and feel much better. As you may know, I have been troubled with hepatitis I caught in Europe, no doubt as a result of the strain of my business activities and extracurricular activities.

I thought I would send you, for relay to the proper parties, the attached with respect to the situation which is making headlines in the newspapers today. Had I been at my office, you would have gotten these much sooner, where they would have done much more good. However, they still contain facts that I have not seen in the public press and which I doubt even CIA possesses. But even if they are known, confirmation is valuable, and therefore I feel it important that these be relayed to proper parties for whatever they are worth.

Due to the fact that the organization I headed up since early 1942 is officially closed out as of December 31, 1954, and that these are a result of the tremendous loyalty and momentum acquired as a result of years of effort based more on the spiritual than the material, I have no obligations in connection with this material, and it is not being sent or given to anyone but you for relay to the horse's mouth, where, after all, it should do the most good. I may or may not get more.

I made all of the attached material as brief as possible without, of course, losing anything really important.

You will note the item on the destruction of an intelligence apparatus behind the Iron Curtain, evidently by the CIA. This is typical of CIA's unbelievably amateurish and dog-in-the-manger attitude in a most difficult but vital field. In a way, this is quite similar to our termination which was not because we did not do a good job, but rather because we did too good a job, if you know what I mean.

I feel rather certain now that the Clark Task Force is a cover-up or has decided, perhaps properly, that an exposure of the weaknesses and ineffectiveness of CIA publicly would do no good and might do a great deal of harm, and have decided to at least publicly whitewash CIA. My reason for believing this is that no investigation of intelligence by an authorized body could possibly miss this organization or my position and activities for from 13 to 32 years. As they have not called on us or on me for any opinion, testimony, evidence, etc., it would seem to me quite obvious that the investigation is under wraps.

Document No. _____
Review of this document by CIA has determined that
☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS S G
Authority: HR 70-2
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
Date 16 JUNE 82 Reviewer 103430

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As we all know, secret intelligence is not the field where persons having the same allegiance can get into any fights without doing more harm than good, so all I can do is sit back and see that any left-overs or reports such as this are relayed where they can do the most good, carefully and securely file away all our 13 years data for the day when it may be useful, continue my rest and recovery of my health, and be able to devote my time to my personal business.

In the meantime, however, I look forward to seeing you personally some day in the near future. Are you coming up to New York soon? If not, I will be in Washington on business, probably next week and again in a week or two thereafter. Would you like to have lunch with me, and how can I reach you? I always stay at the Lee House in Washington which is at 15th and L Street, N.W.

Hoping that you are in the best of health, I am,

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.